

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO KISSINGER NOMINATION

1. BOGOTA PRESS REACTION TO THE NOMINATION OF DR KISSINGER AS SECRETARY OF STATE HAS BEEN VERY FAVORABLE. LOCAL DAILIES DEVOTED SUBSTANTIAL NEWS COVERAGE AND EDITORIAL COMMENT TO THE NOMINATION.
2. THE EDITORIAL COMMENTS CITE DR KISSINGERS ACHIEVEMENTS IN IMPROVING US RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION AND CREDIT HIM WITH MOVING US POLICIES IN A REALISTIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIRECTION. THE SECRETARY-DESIGNATES SEEMING INDIFFERENCE TO LATIN AMERICAN MATTERS IS COMMENTED ON WITHOUT RANCOR AND IS PLACED IN THE CONTEXT OF DR KISSINGERS URGENT TASKS IN THE ASIAN AND EUROPEAN AREAS.
3. SEVERAL EDITORIALS CONTAINED THE OBSERVATION THAT ONLY IN AS OPEN AND FREE A SOCIETY AS THE US COULD A MINORITY GROUP IMMIGRANT RISE TO A POSITION OF SUCH HIGH HONOR AND RESPONSIBILITY.
4. IN EL ESPECTADOR, BOGOTA LARGEST DAILY, COLUMNIST FABIO LOZANO WROTE "A STUDIOUS DEVOTEE OF CLEMENTE METTERNICH, KISSINGER HAS NE-

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VERTHELESS PLAYED A ROLE OPPOSITE TO THAT OF THE DIPLOMATIC GENIUS OF

THE LAST CENTURY. THAT GREAT PROMOTER OF ALLIANCES SOUGHT TO FREEZE THE WORLD OF MOARCHIES. BY CONTRAST, KISSINGER...HAS MOVED NIXON ON THE ROAD OF REALITY...DUE TO KISSINGERS WORK, THAT SUPERPOWER NO LONGER SERVES AS MIDWIFE TO A WORLD OF DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY WITH PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS DEVELOPED BY THE IDEALISM OF KENNEDY, NOR IS IT GUIDED BY THE ANTI-COMMUNIST IDEALISM OF THE OLD NIXON".

5. IN THE INFLUENTIAL DAILY, EL TIEMPO, COLUMNIST ENRIQUE CABALLERO WROTE: "THAT A GERMAN JEW WHO ARRIVED IN NEW YORK AT THE AGE OF 15 SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE HIGHEST POSITION IN UNITED STATES FOREIGN RELATIONS MAKES OFFICIAL HIS POSITION AS THE POWER BEHIND THE THRONE. THE WORK OF KISSINGER IS WELL KNOWN AND IT IS A MASTERWORK". CABELLERO ALSO CITES IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND SOVIET UNION AND SAYS THAT KISSINGER SUPPORTS COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAZQUEZ CARRIZOSAS THESIS OF "IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM".

6. IN A SUBSEQUENT EDITORIAL EL TIEMPO ASSUMES THAT THE NEW SECRETARY OF STATE WILL VISIT LATIN AMERICA: "...NOW, THE SECRETARY OF STATE WANTS TO LOOK TOWARD THE SOUTH AND THE (LATIN AMERICAN) STATES BORDERING THE PACIFIC. WE HAVE TO THANK HIM FOR HIS GOOD INTENTIONS AND EVEN CLEAN HOUSE FOR THE ILLUSTRIOUS GUEST. THE ONLY PROBLEM IS THAT ON HIS PRESUMED VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA HE WILL FIND HIMSELF SUBJECTED TO IMPERTINENT QUESTIONS: IMPERTINENCE IS ONE OF THE FEW PATRIARCHAL VIRTUES THAT REMAIN TO US LATIN AMERICAN. WHAT DOES KISSINGER THINK ABOUT THE MILITARY REGIMES-THE HARSH GOVERNMENTS-THAT TODAY COVER MORE THAN HALF OF THE HEMISPHERE? HOW DOES HE VIEW THE FUTURE OF THOSE NATIONS THAT STILL MAINTAIN SOME DEMOCRACY? THERE IS NO NEED TO TALK ABOUT MEXICO; THE DAY AFTER HIS NOMINATION, KISSINGER ATTENDED A WEDDING THERE AND RECEIVED THE AUTHORIZED REPORT: EVERYTHING IS GOING WELL IN MEXICO. NOW THAT NIXONS TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA HAS BEEN PRUDENTLY CANCELLED IT IS WELL THAT KISSINGER COME AND THAT HE JUDGE THE CONTINENT, NOT WITH HIS METTERNICHIAN VISION,HIS VERY NINETEENTH CENTRY VISION OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, BUT RATHER WITH THE EYES OF A DISCOVERER OF A NEW WORLD. A WORLD WHICH BY THE LAWS OF HISTORICAL GRAVITY IS FULL OF SURPRISES, EVEN FOR KISSINGR, WHO SEEMS TO BE A STATESMAN SURPRISED AT NOTHING". LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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